



Spring 1999

...the maintenance crew welcomes



Mowing 200 acres of grass
between runways

Spring for the maintenance crew means a lot of things. The promise of blue skies, longer days, dry feet, the end of roof leak repairs and those 18-hour snow days. Most of all though it's MOWING! The equipment operators, Mike and Ron, do the interior grass bays with the big tractor pulled mowers. Most of their time in the spring is spent grooming the 200 acres of grass between the runways and the north and south ends of the field. Randy drives the riding mowers and greoms the long strips along Perimeter Road, Airport Way and around the lights and signs on the field.

For the landscape crew however, spring means seeing the rewards of our pruning and planting during the winter when it's catch up time for planting new areas and pruning all that try at the AOC. Springtime is also when weed control commences. This is done with safe chemicals, manual pulling and spreading heavy bark.

Plumber Vern is in charge of getting the irrigation systems repaired and ready for summer. They are shut off in the winter so they aren't damaged by freezing.

Springtime also entails asphalt and concrete repair, damage from freezing temperatures and repairs that could not be done earlier because asphalt doesn't adhere in cold weather. At this time weed control on the taxiways and runways starts, to prepare them for joint sealing on expansion joints and cracks.

Spring is also when the crew starts thinking of more serious matters like fishing, golf and vacations. Ron and Mike are the golfers, most of the crew fishes and many go camping. However, Mark, one of the electricians, heads to the mountains for mountain climbing.

One thing everyone looks forward to in the spring is watching the planes take off with the majestic Mount Rainier as a backdrop! Happy Spring to everyone from the airport maintenance crew.

Christine Groubert

the promise of blue skies longer days and dry feet!

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